

# Wisconsin River Basin Modeling: Status Updates and Technological Innovations Used in Water Quality Modeling

Aaron Ruesch and Dave Evans  
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Wisconsin River Water Quality Improvement Symposium  
Stevens Point, WI  
March 19, 2015

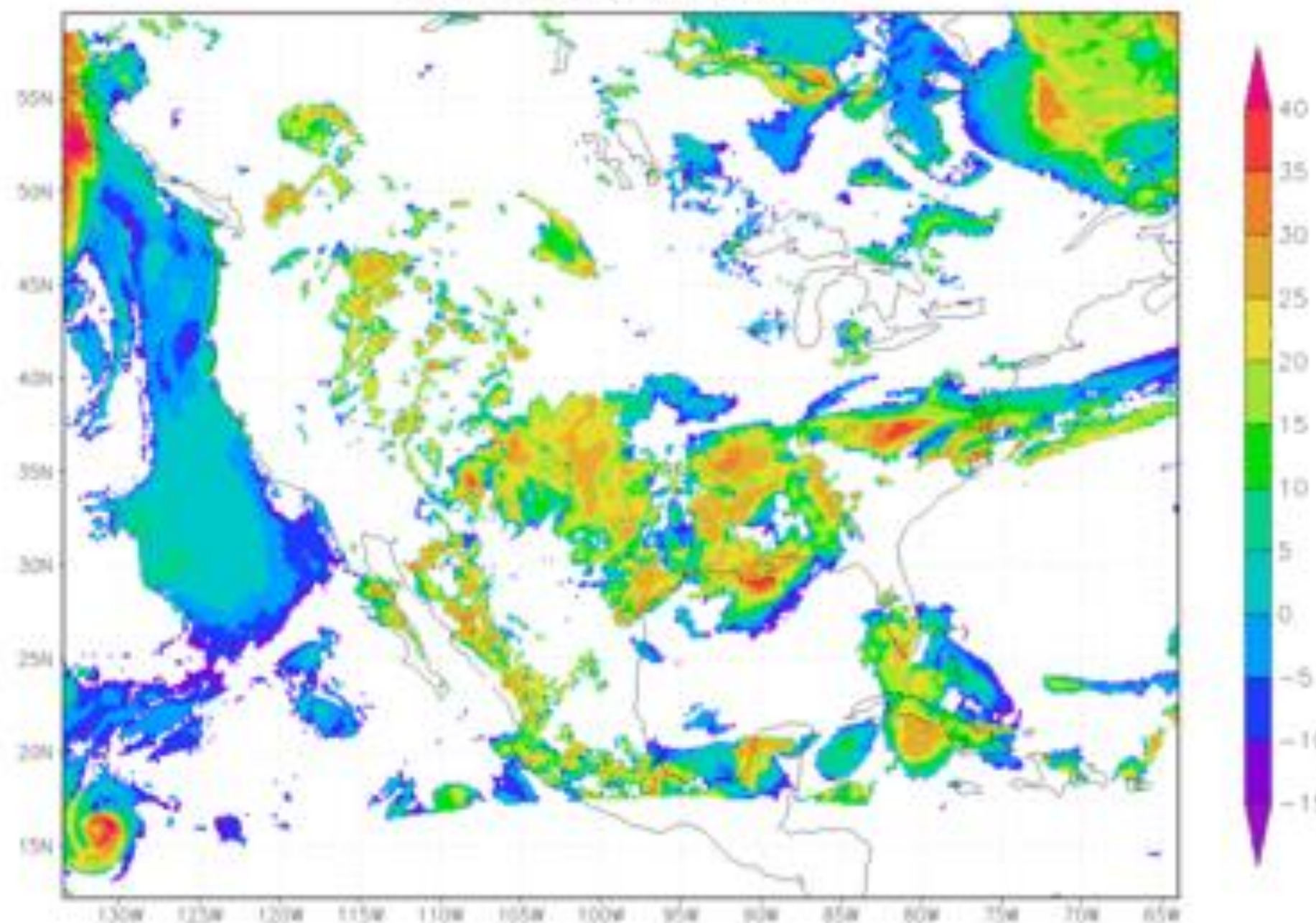
# Overview

- 1.Simulation Modeling 101
- 2.General WI River model  
framework and status update
- 3.WI River SWAT model setup
- 4.SWAT model details (Dave)

A computer simulation model is a set of equations and/or algorithms that describe the behavior of an interconnected system



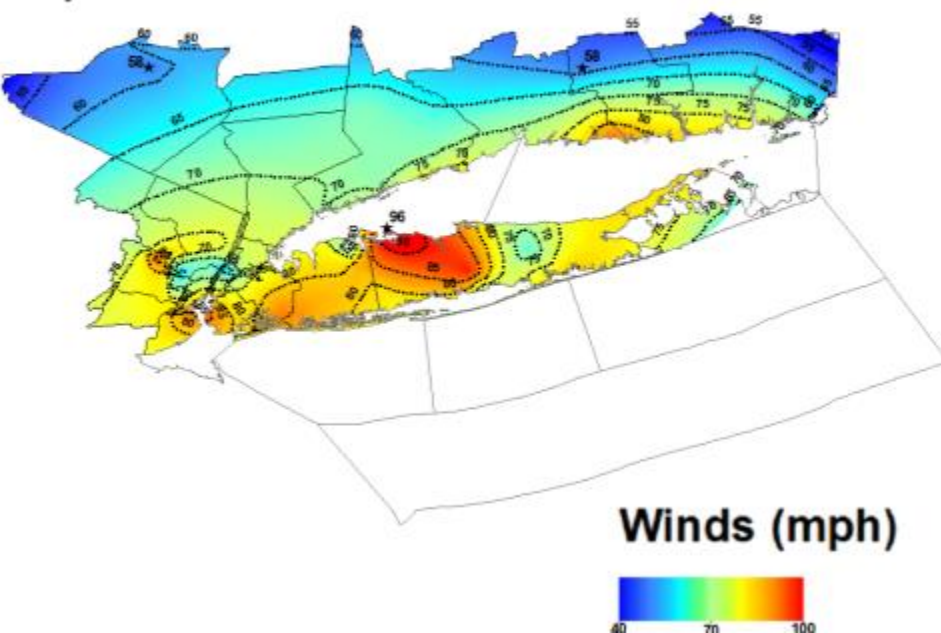
NAM Atmospheric Column Maximum Composite Radar Reflectivity [dbZ]  
00Z10JUL2012+000Hrs







## Wind Gust Reports









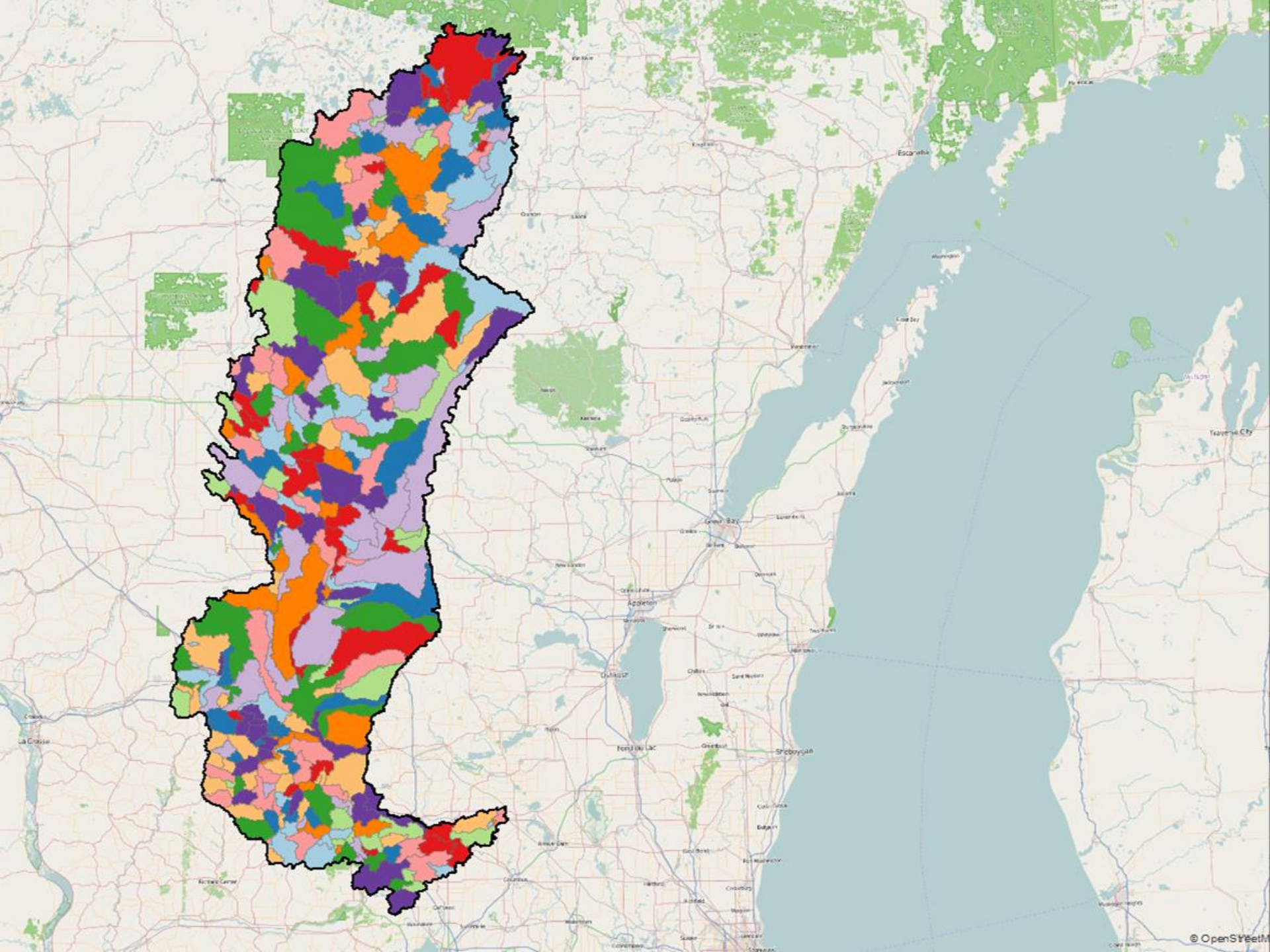
# Tributary Prediction targets

Average:

1. daily **streamflow**
2. monthly **sediment** load
3. monthly **phosphorus** load

...at 337 locations over a period of 12 years.





# Reservoir response

- Nutrient dynamics
  - Variability in time and space
  - Chlorophyll response to nutrients
- Reduction of upstream nutrients to meet water quality standards
- Six de-coupled reservoir models



A map of Lake Michigan with six locations labeled in white text. The labels are: Eagle River C.O.L. (top left), Castle Rock (top right), Du Bay (middle left), Big Eau Pleine (middle right), Wisconsin (bottom left), and Petenwell (bottom right). The lake is shown in light blue against a dark blue background.

Eagle River C.O.L.

Castle Rock

Du Bay

Big Eau Pleine

Wisconsin

Petenwell





Eagle River C.O.L.

Big Eau Pleine

Du Bay

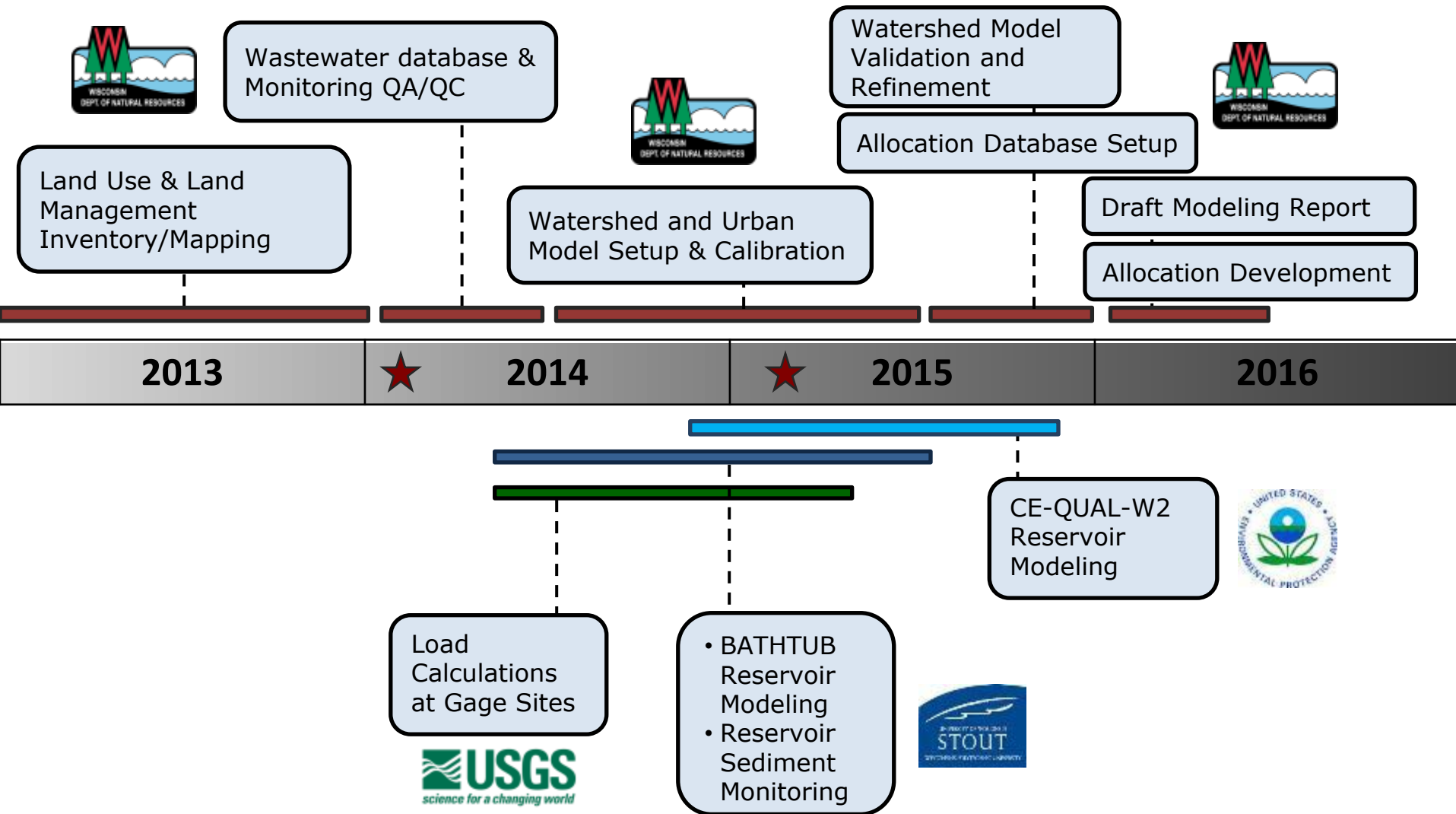
Petenwell

Castle Rock

Wisconsin

# WRB Water Quality Improvement Project

## Detailed Technical Timeline





# parameterization







An aerial photograph of a large lake with numerous small, forested islands. The sky is blue with scattered white clouds. Four grey callout boxes with black outlines point to specific features in the lake. The first box, labeled 'Weedy flat', points to a wide, shallow area on the left. The second box, labeled 'Extended point', points to a narrow isthmus in the center. The third box, labeled 'Steep dropoff', points to a small island on the right. The fourth box, labeled 'Saddle', points to a low-lying area between two islands in the foreground.

**Weedy flat**

**Extended  
point**

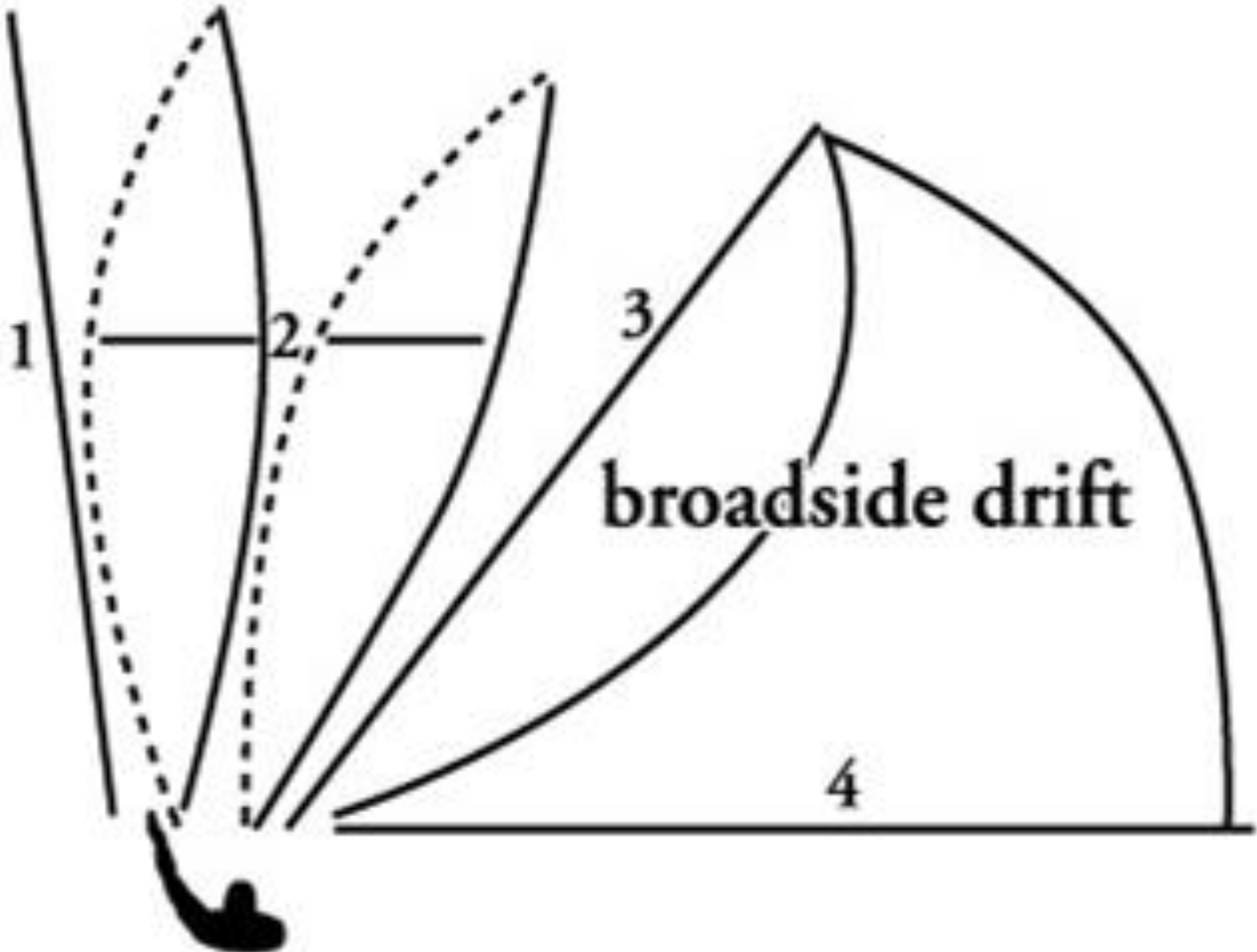
**Steep  
dropoff**

**Saddle**

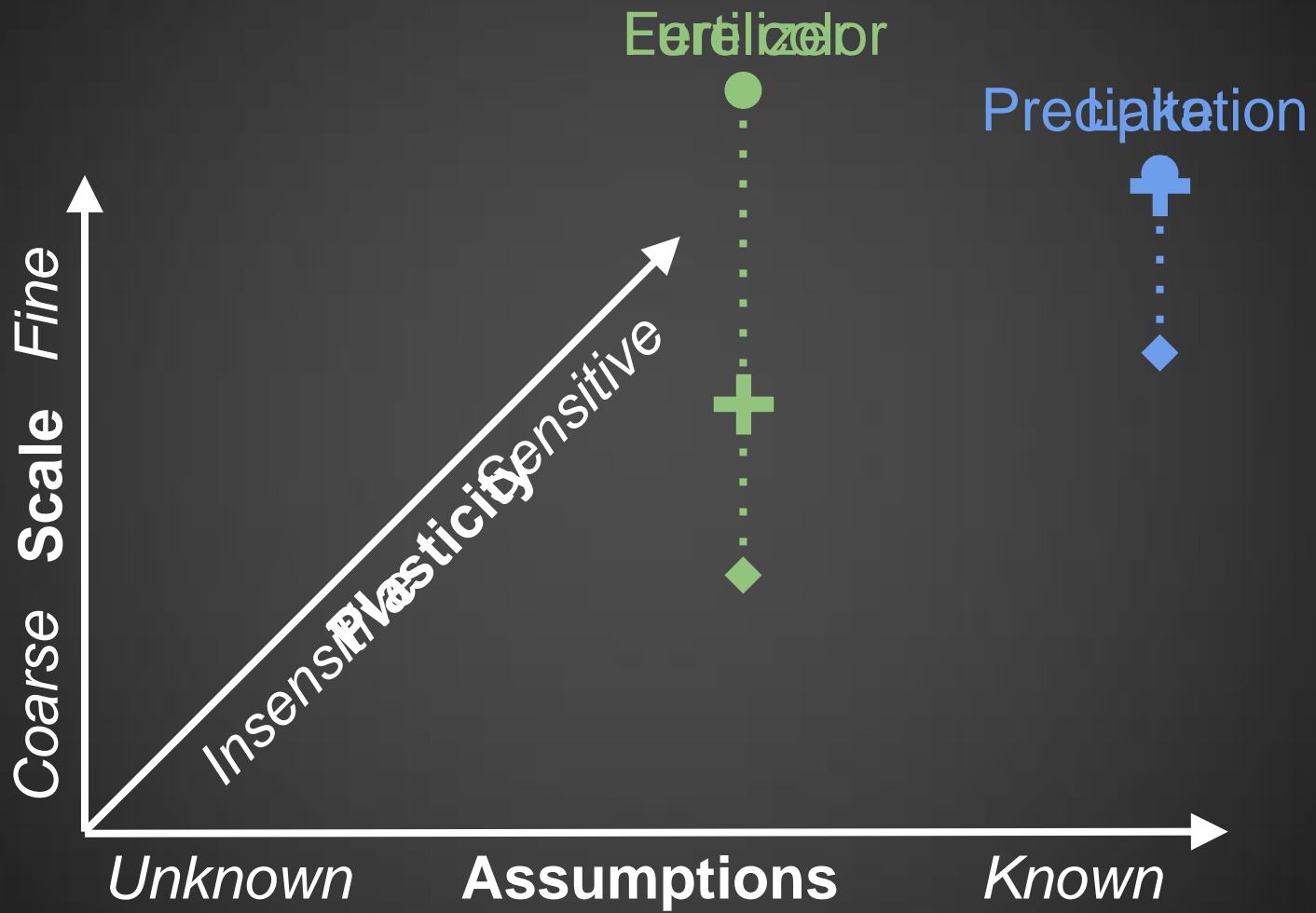




current direction



precipitation  
landcover  
springs  
crop  
soils  
wastewater  
drainage  
depth  
tillage  
roughness  
agriculture  
timing  
velocity  
settling  
fertilizer  
resuspension  
climate  
erodibility  
seasonality  
location  
solar  
slope  
livesock  
wind  
tiles  
scale  
impondments  
bedrock  
ditching  
urban  
CRP  
lag  
humidity  
pasture  
rooting  
groundwater  
geology











**GitHub**





**[github.com/dnrwaterqualitymodeling](https://github.com/dnrwaterqualitymodeling)**

# Part 2 - Overview

## Technological Innovations

- Remote sensing (land cover and management)
- gSSURGO (coarse-scale analysis, use of statistical methods for aggregating soils)
- Cloud computing

## Calibration

- Overview
- Sensitivity Analysis

# SOIL & WATER ASSESSMENT TOOL

G

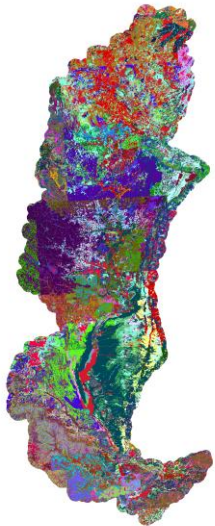
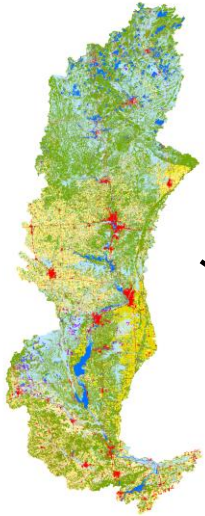


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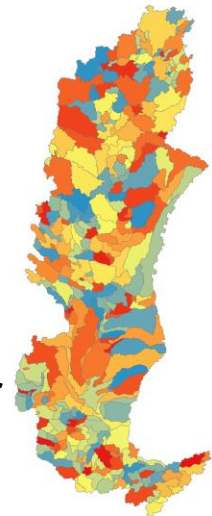
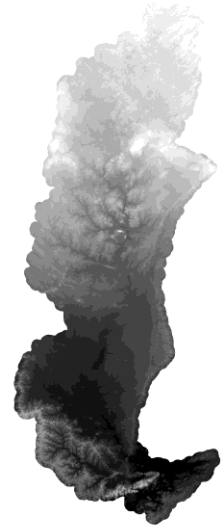
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# Model Configuration

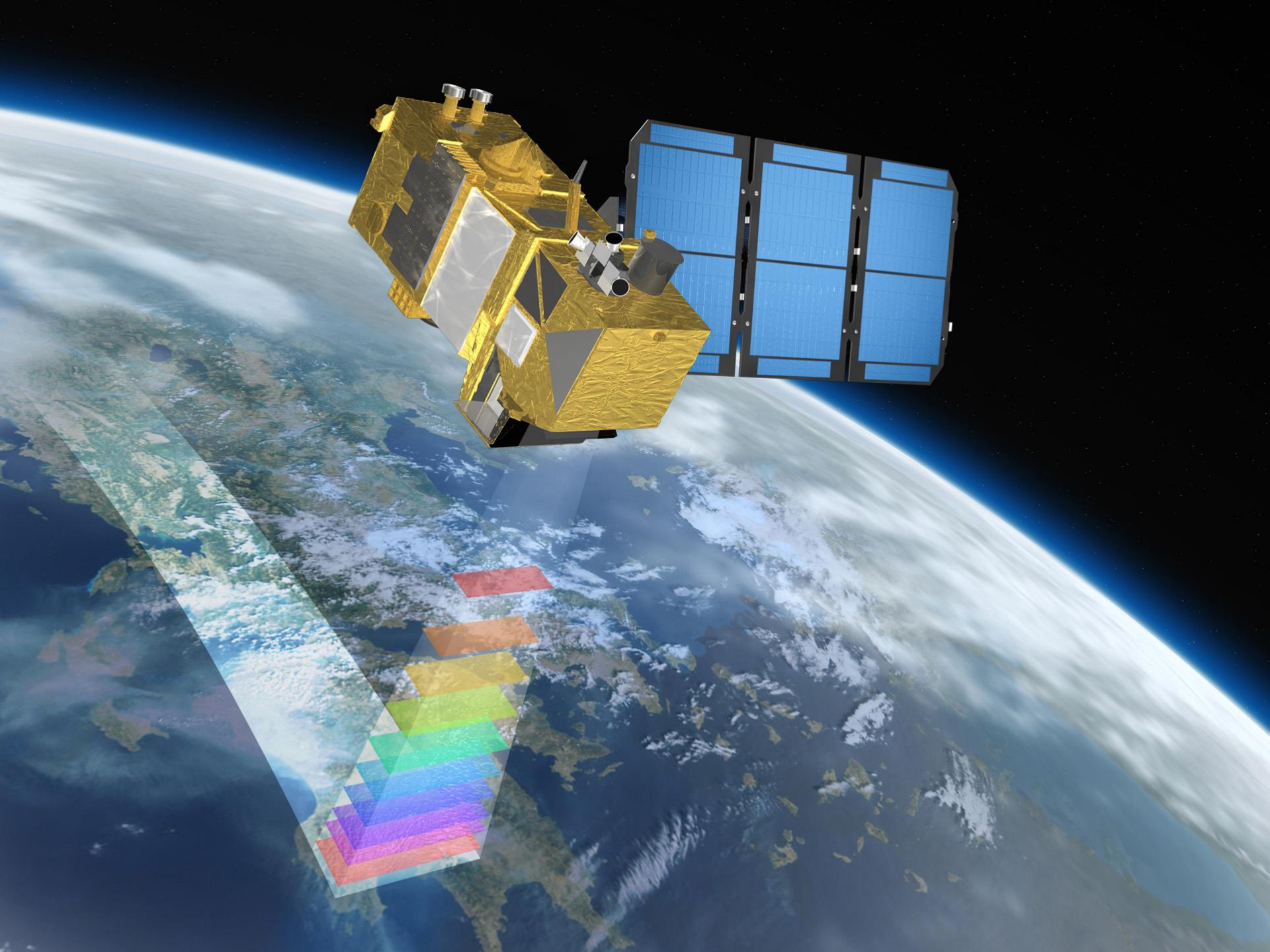


## SOIL & WATER ASSESSMENT TOOL





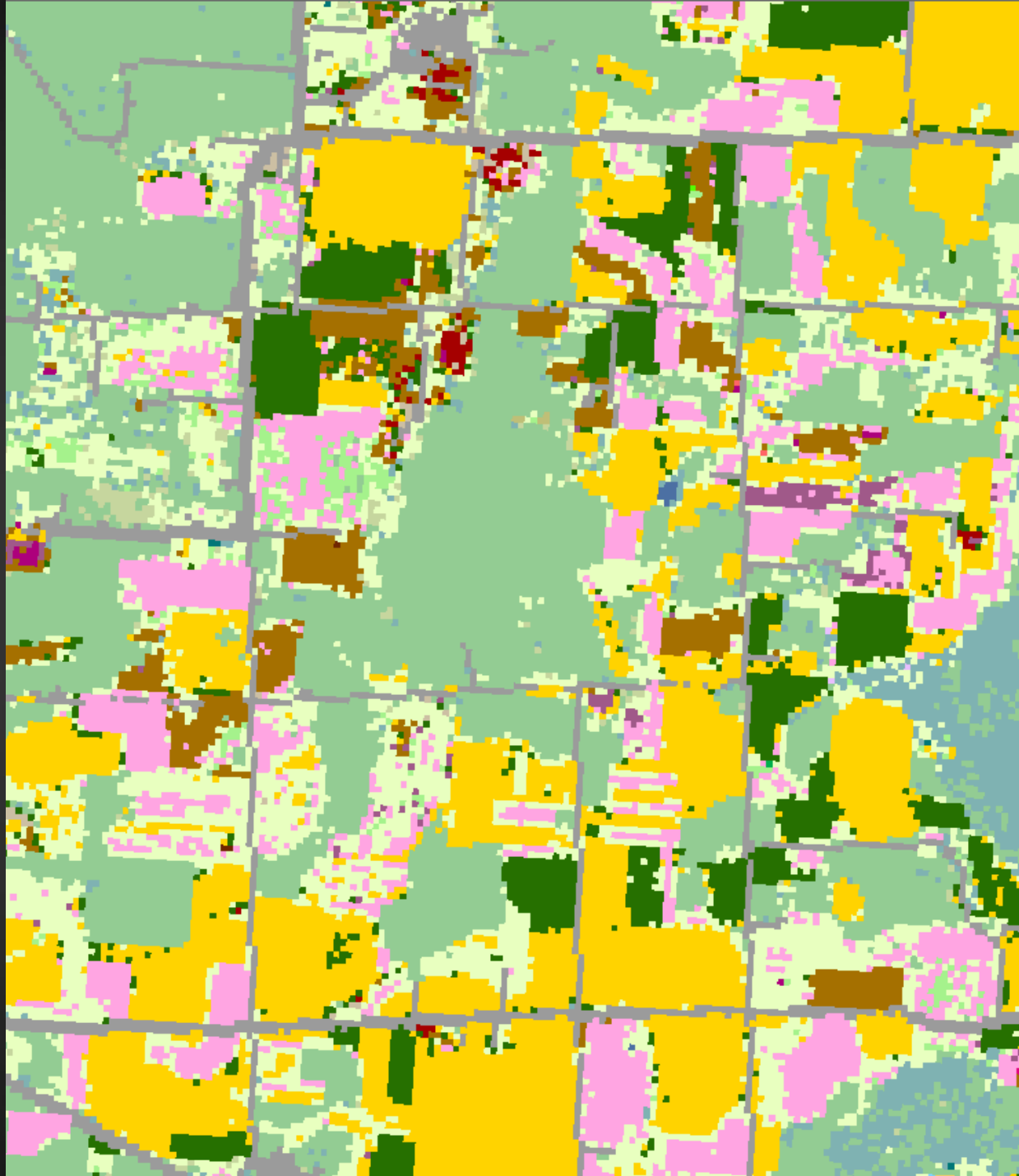


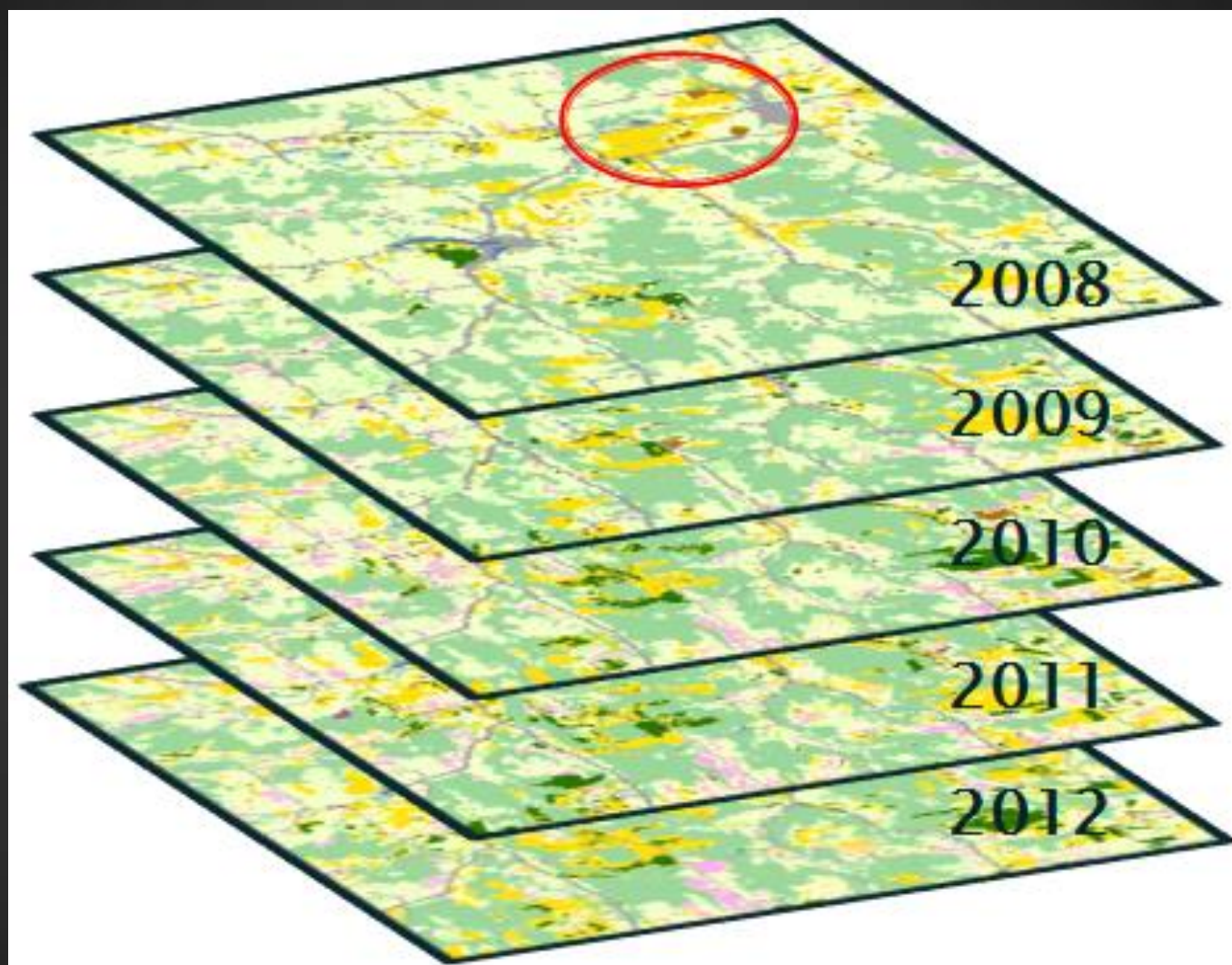




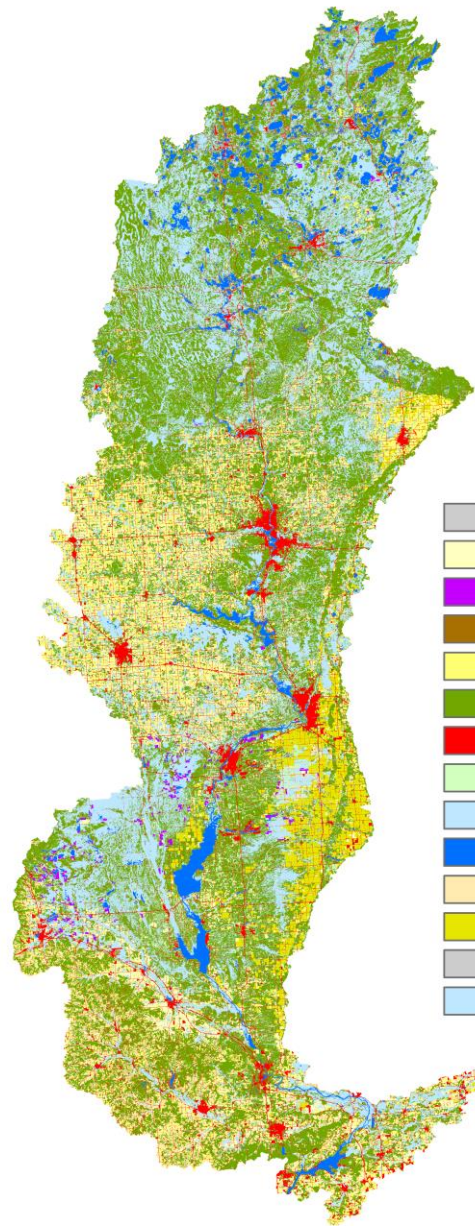




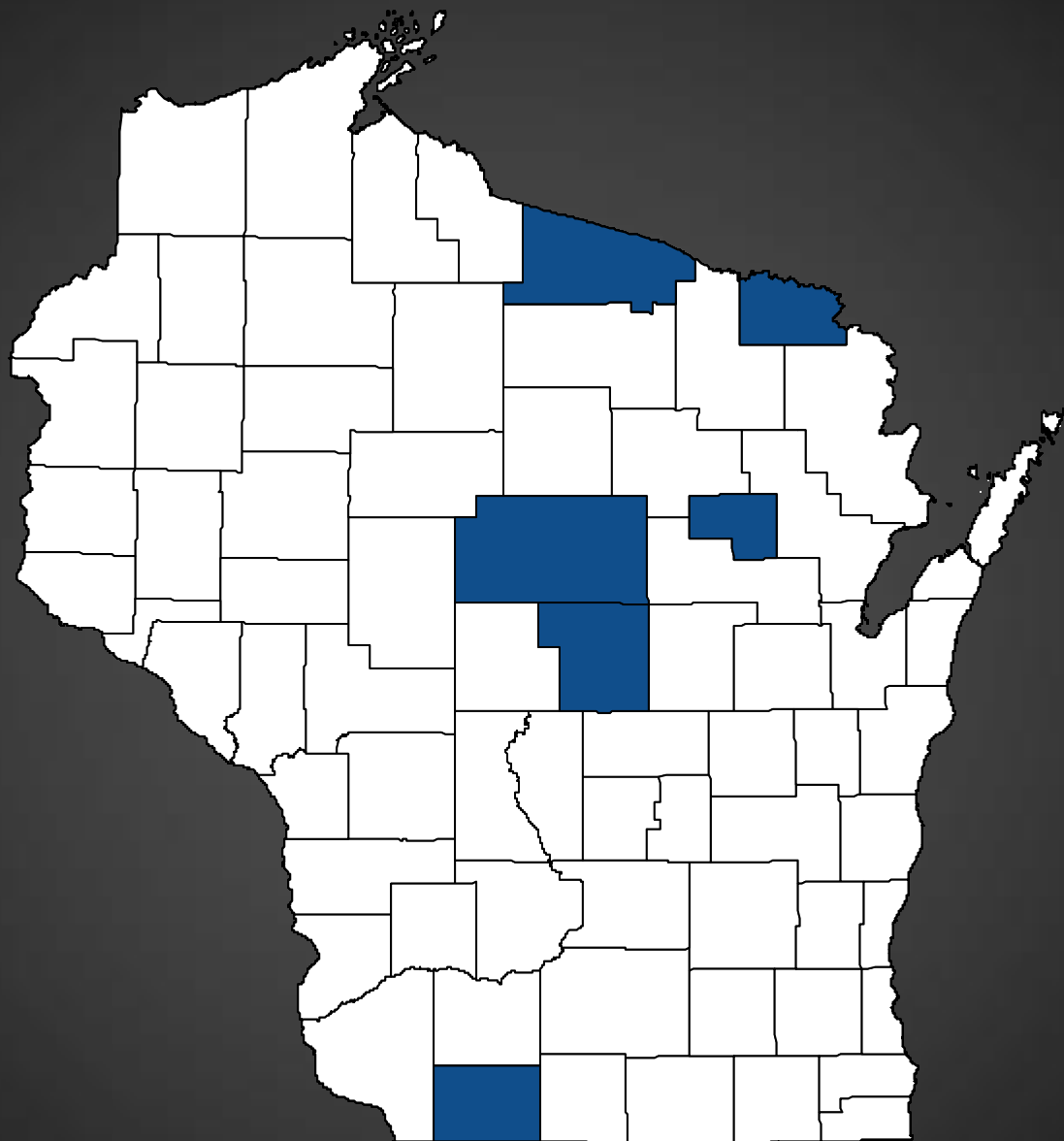


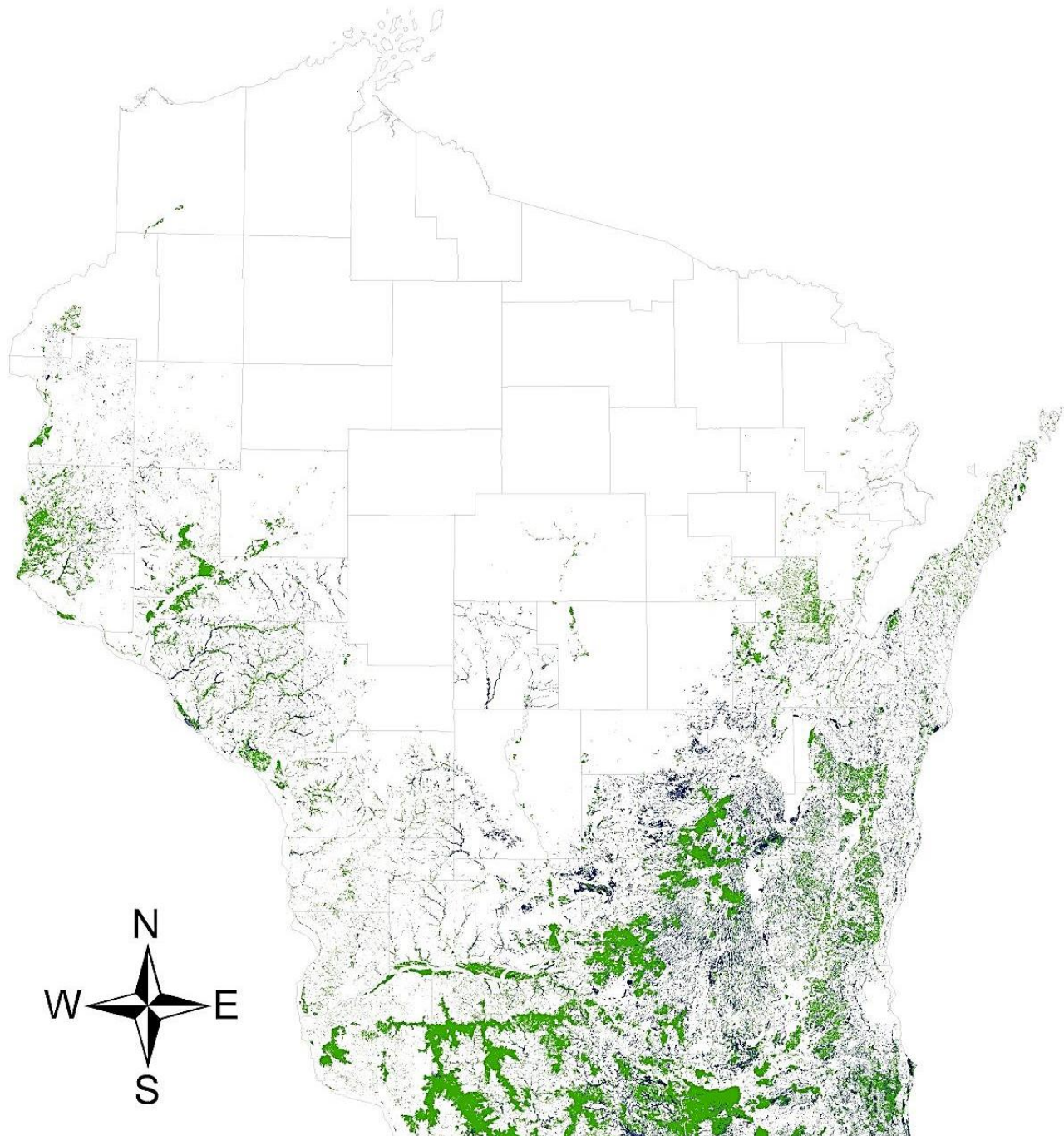




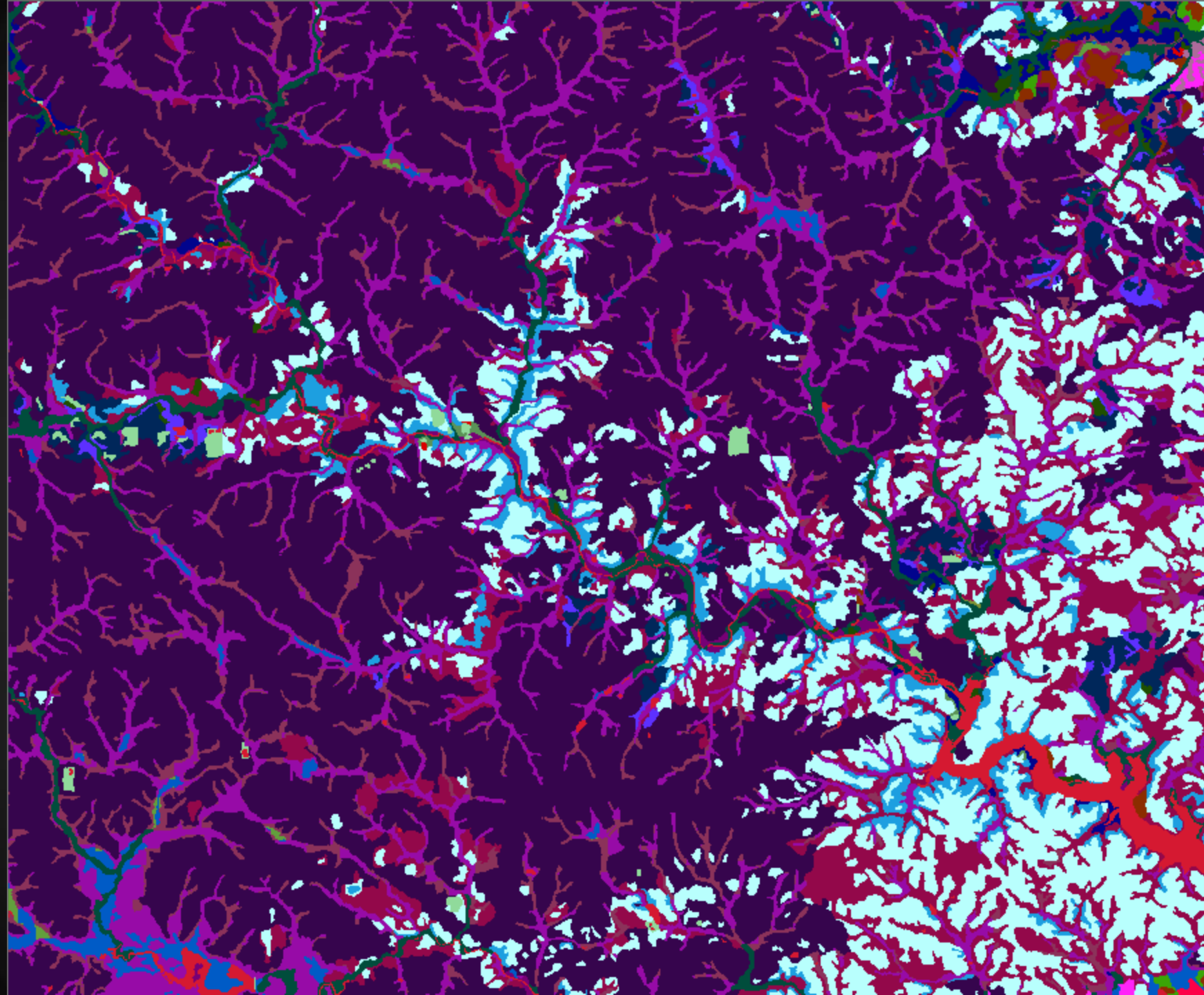


-  Barren
-  Cash Grain
-  Cranberries
-  CRP
-  Dairy
-  Deciduous Forest
-  Developed/Open Space
-  Grassland Herbaceous
-  Herbaceous Wetlands
-  Open Water
-  Pasture/Hay
-  Potato/Vegetable
-  Shrubland
-  Woody Wetlands

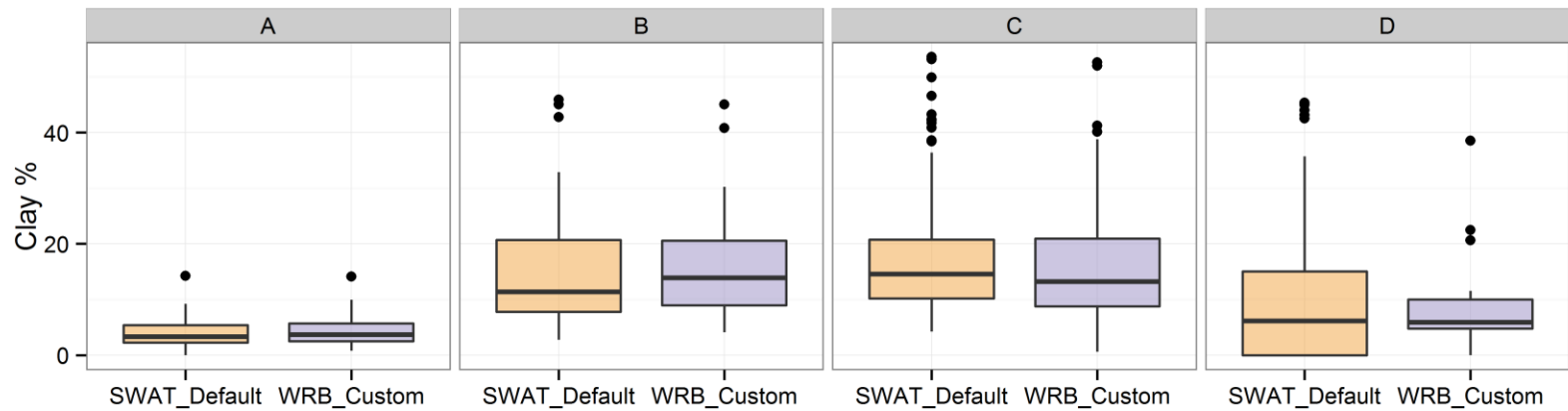
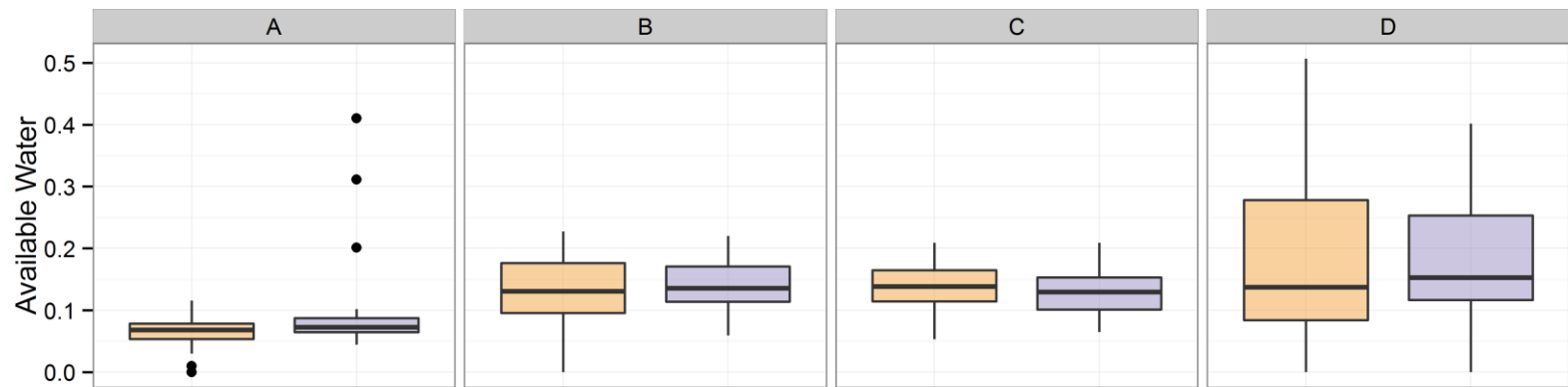
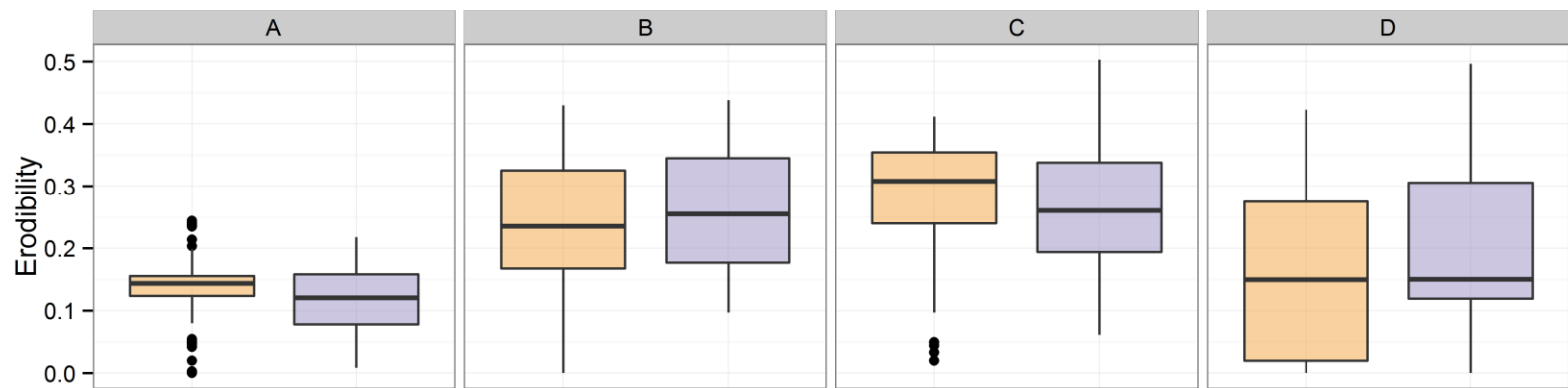








# Hydrologic Soil Group



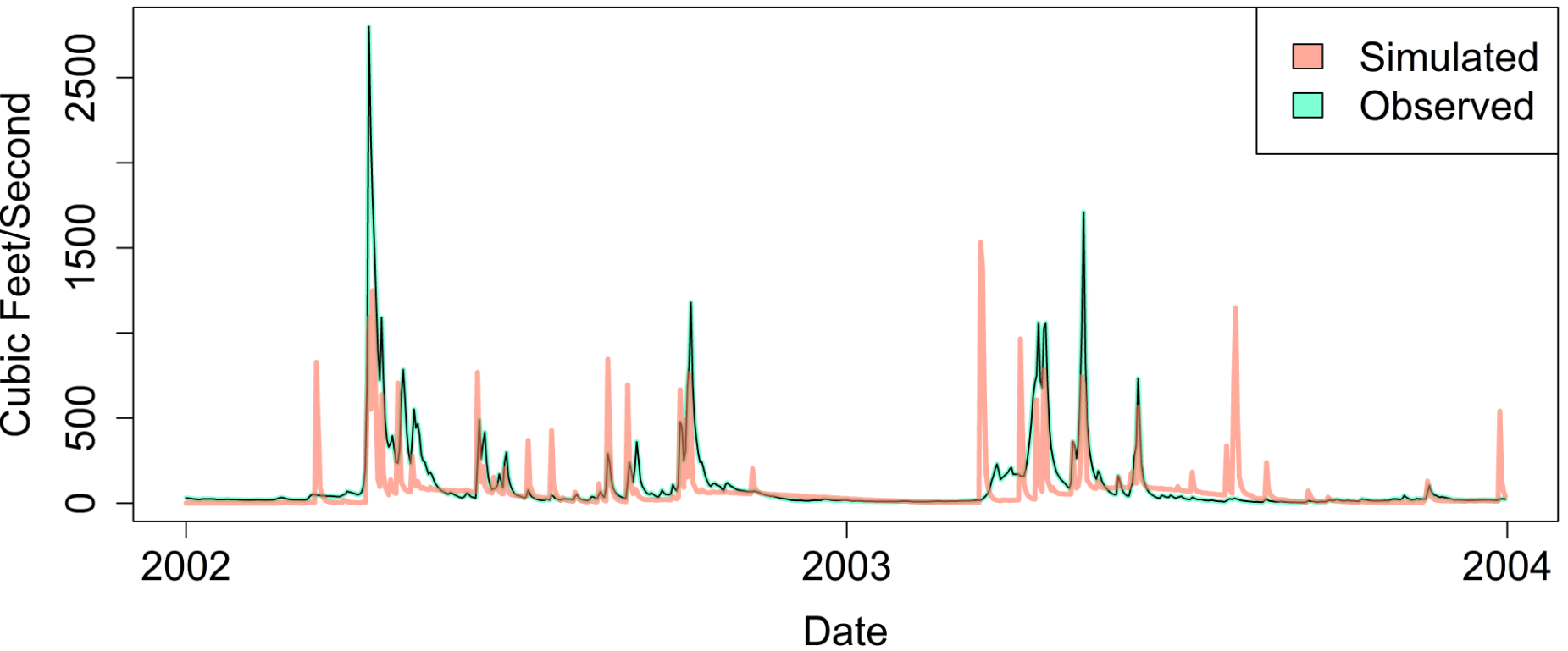
# Calibration

Average:

1. daily **streamflow**
2. monthly **sediment** load
3. monthly **phosphorus** load



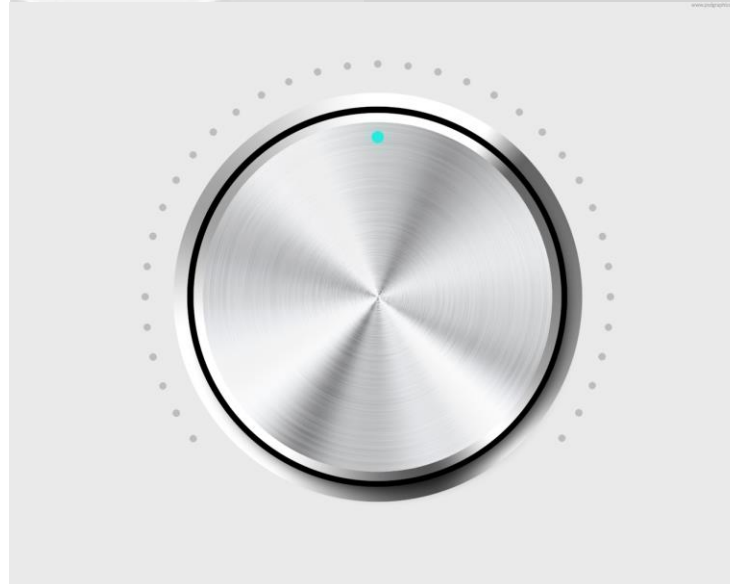
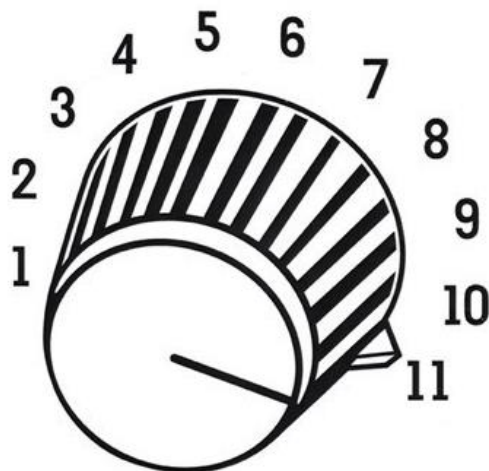
# Calibration



# Calibration



STREAMFLOW  
ADJUSTMENT

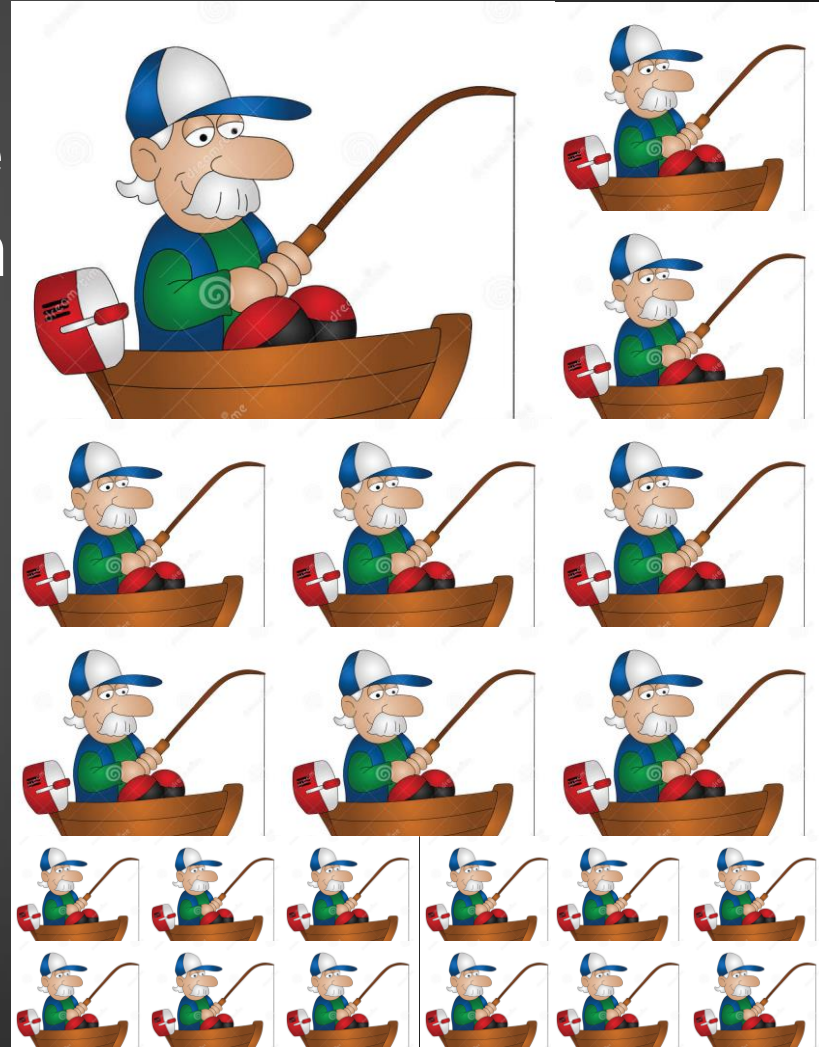


# Sensitivity Analysis

Test 100 different lures,  
same day, same time, same  
boat, same depth, same fish  
same lake...

- Does this kind of lure  
matter and if so, how?

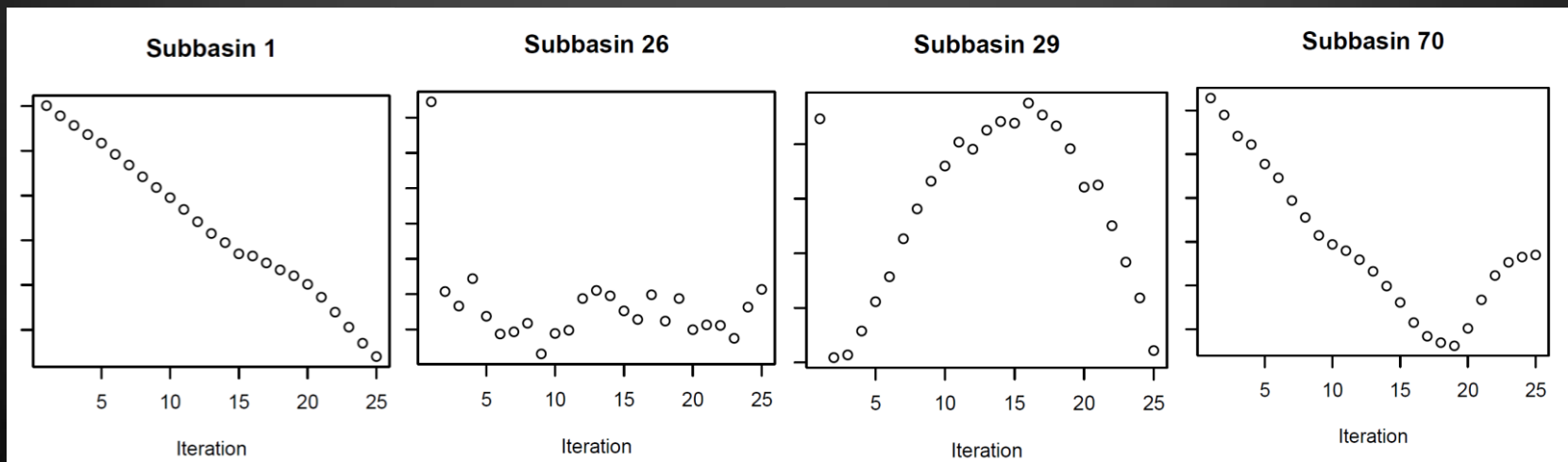
Test 100 different depths,  
same day, time etc.,



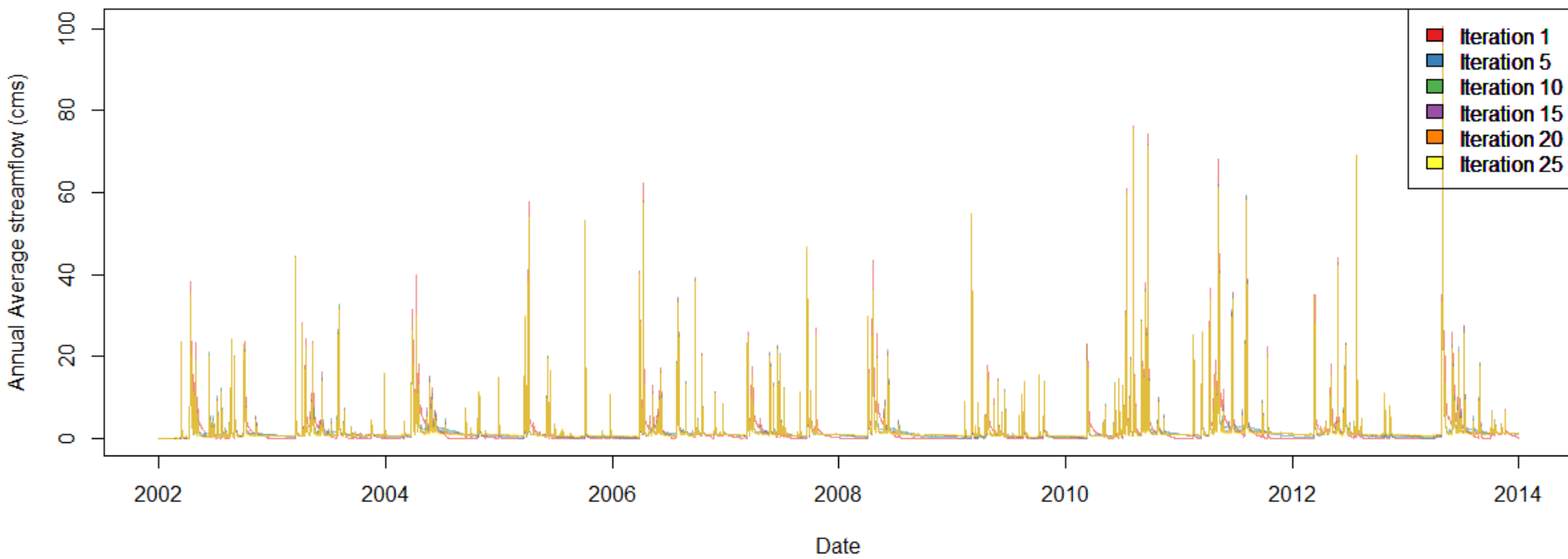


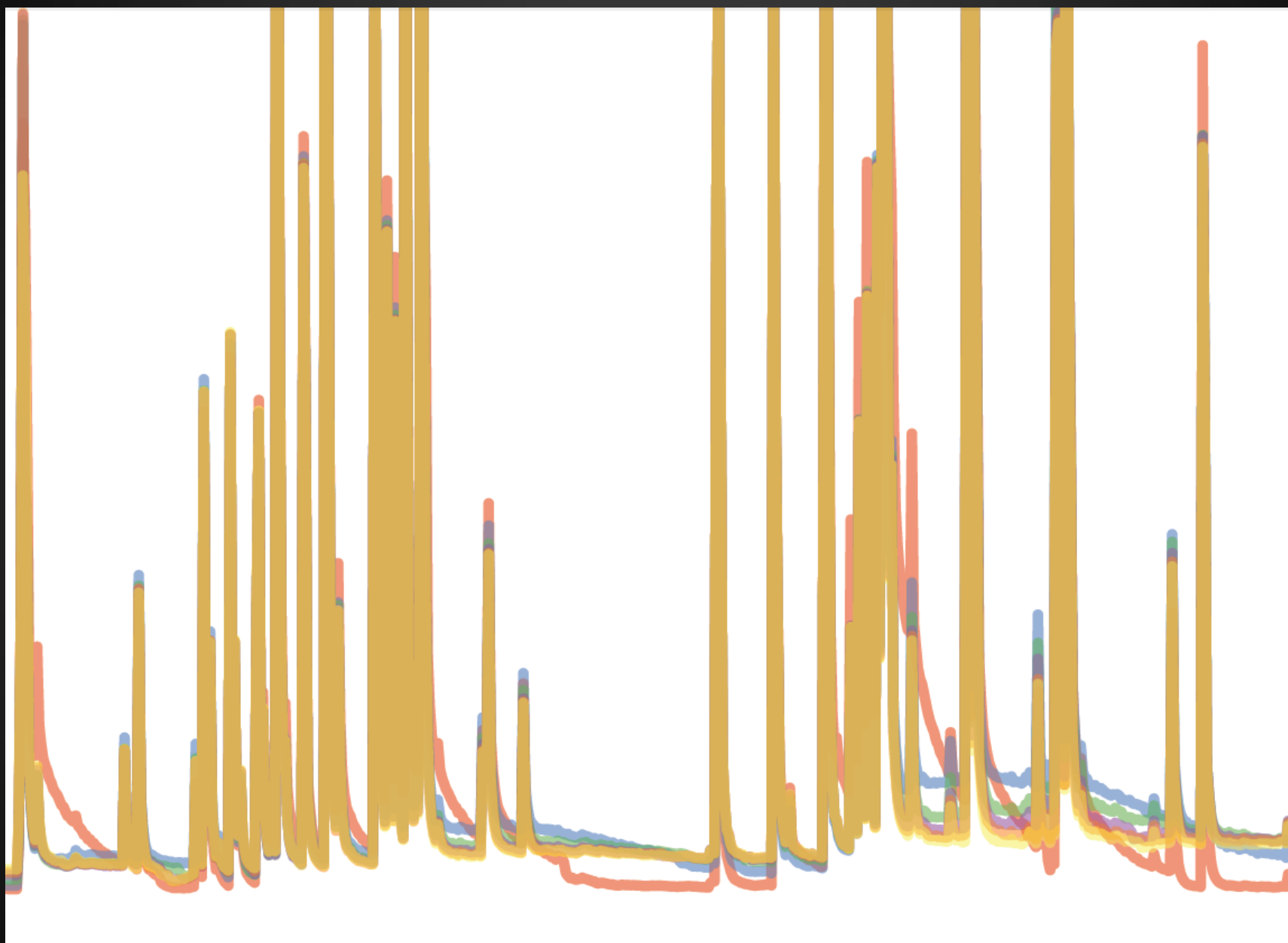
# Sensitivity Analysis

- Example: adjusting GW\_DELAY
  - Governs how long it takes water leaving the soil to reach the groundwater
  - Does it effect streamflow? How much?
  - Shifts hydrograph? Increases/decreases peak flows?



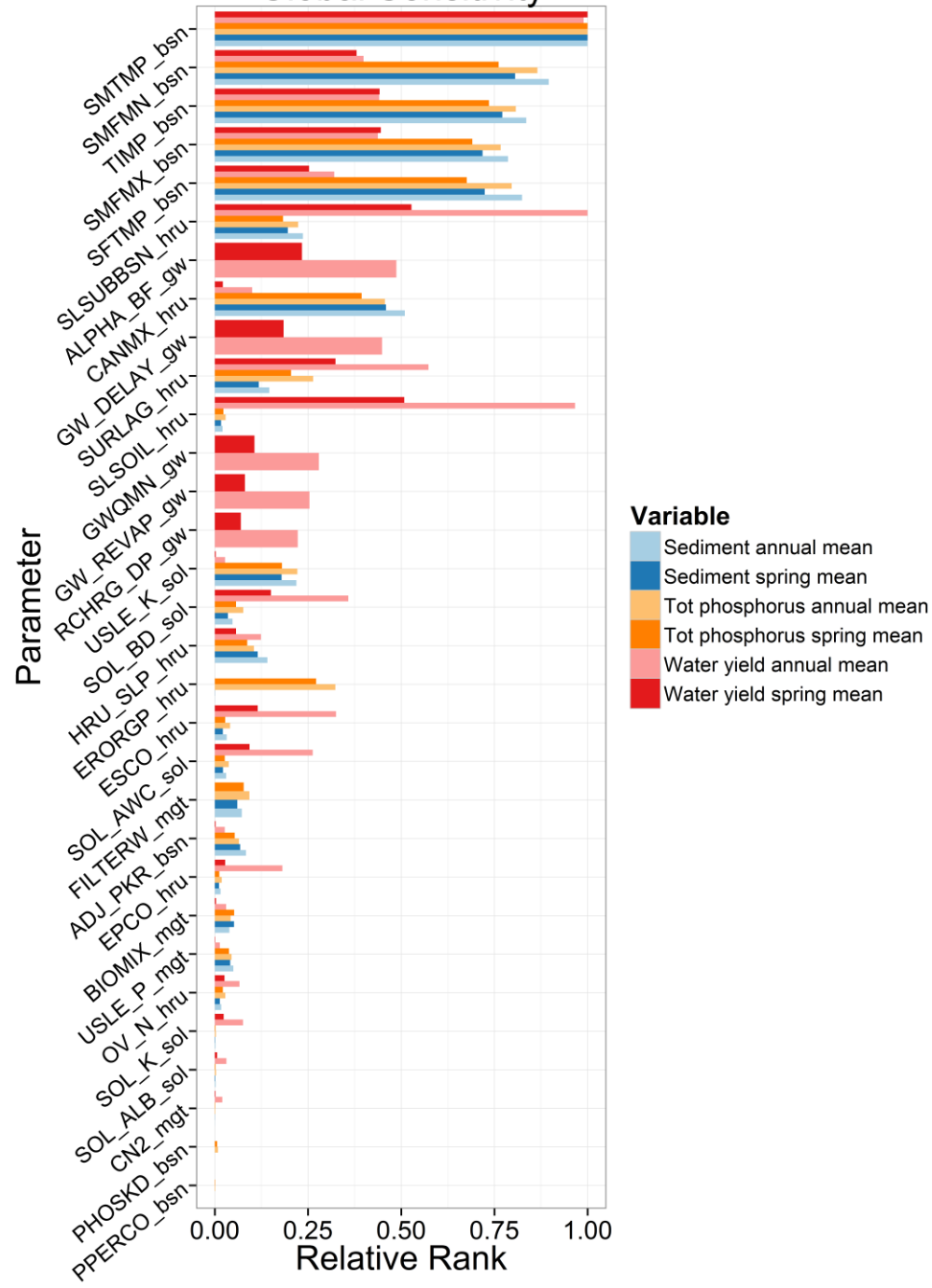
### Subbasin 162 Entire Record







# Global Sensitivity

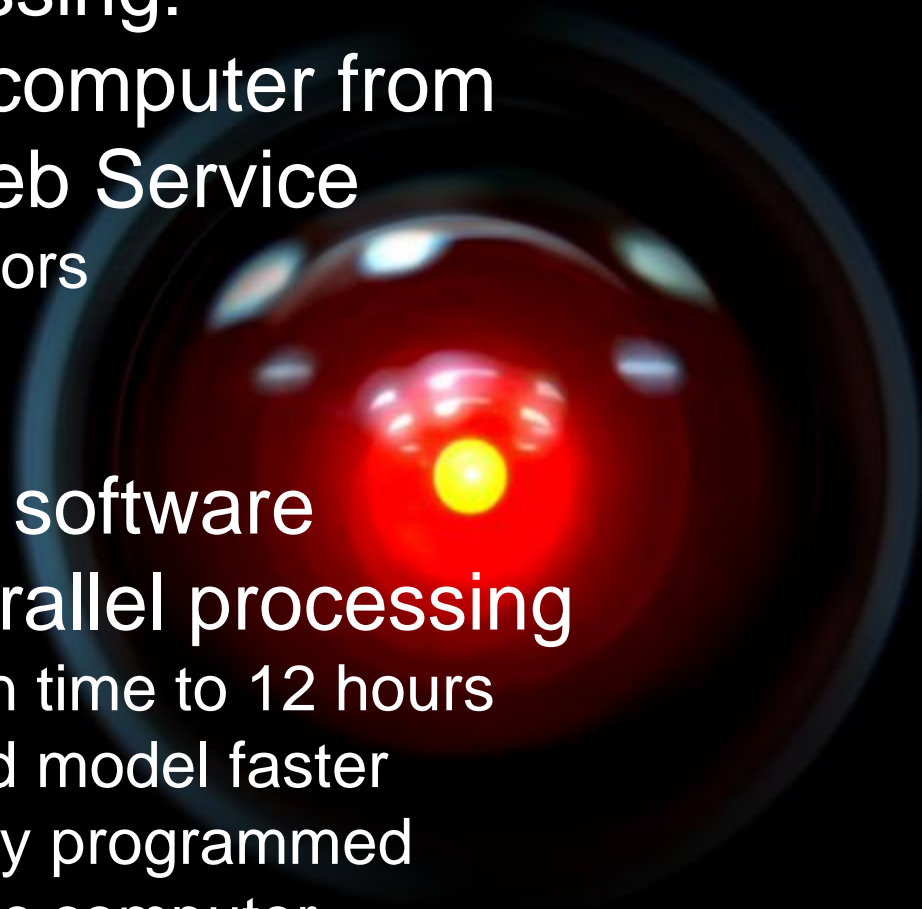


# Sensitivity Analysis

- Requires many model runs
- Example: adjusting GW\_DELAY
  - each run takes 10 min
  - 25 different values
  - = 4 hours
- For 50 parameters, might take 13 days to run

# Enter cloud computing and parallel processing:

- Rent large computer from Amazon Web Service
  - 32 processors
  - Solid state
  - 60Gb RAM
- Scripts and software facilitate parallel processing
  - Reduce run time to 12 hours
  - Understand model faster
  - Heuristically programmed ALgorithmic computer
- Flexibility of renting





# Calibration

- Use monitoring data to train the model
- Optimize parameters to achieve accuracy metric
- Use SWAT-CUP software
  - Runs SWAT and automatically assesses fit
- Thousands of runs
- Manual assessment and adjustment
- Acceptable fit
  - Streamflow
  - Sediment
  - Phosphorus



Thanks for your attention  
Questions?